

nearly everyone to have a few sheep to furnish wool for spinning and weaving into a cloth called "jean."

Production of the cloth was laborious. After the wool was sheared from the sheep it had to be washed and scoured, carded by hand into spools and then spun into yarn. If coloring was desired, tag alder, rabbit brush and indigo were used.

William Aird was the first community weaver, and received the yarn from the people for weaving. The wool had to be mixed with cotton yarn for warp to make the "jean" cloth. Practically everyone wore clothing made from this type of cloth.

Additional Church organization occurred in 1861 when John Young, a brother of President Brigham Young, came to Heber and organized the first High Priests Quorum. Elisha Averett was sustained as president of the quorum. He moved away in less than a year and John M. Murdock was appointed. Counselors were Thomas Todd and John Jordan with William Aird as clerk.

Up until this time in the valley's history there were two counties that claimed the Wasatch land. Utah County included the southern area of the valley and the northern part was in Salt Lake County. The dividing line ran through the valley about one mile south of Heber. The present cities of Heber and Midway were in Salt Lake County.

Early in 1862 the U. S. government created the Territory of Nevada out of the western part of the Territory of Utah. This made it necessary to revise some of the county lines in the remaining Utah area and the Territorial Legislature created 17 new counties in the state, one of them being Wasatch County.

The new county was bounded on the west by the summit of the Wasatch Range, on the north by Summit County, on the east by the territorial line between Utah and Colorado and on the south by Sanpete County.

A later legislative act described the county boundaries as follows: "All of that portion of the territory bounded on the south by Utah and Sanpete Counties, west by Utah and Great Salt Lake Counties, north by the summit of the range of mountains south of the headwaters of the East canyon and Silver Creek, following said summit to the point where the road leading to Great Salt Lake City and Rhode's Valley crosses, thence south to the Provo River at the high bluff below Goddards' ranch; thence along the channel of said river to its head waters, thence easterly to the summit of the range of mountains north of Uintah Valley, thence along the last named summit and south to Brown's hole to the 32nd meridian west from Washington City and east by said meridian, is hereby made and named Wasatch County with county seat at Heber City."

It is believed that the Goddard's ranch mentioned is the present O'Driscoll ranch situated on the north side of the Provo River at the lower end of Kamas Valley.

With the establishment of a county, officers were needed to administer judicial affairs. John W. Witt was elected probate judge by the Territorial Legislature and on February 22, 1862 he conducted the first session of county court. The minutes of the first meeting are as follows:

REPORT OF THE COUNTY COURT OF WASATCH COUNTY IN THE TERRITORY OF UTAH

Special Term

John W. Witt, Presiding

The judge organized the county court by appointing the following officers: Thos. Todd, James Duke and John H. Van Wagoner, selectmen.

The court then proceeded to appoint John Harvey, assessor and collector; Snelling M. Johnson, sheriff; John M. Murdock, treasurer; John Sessions, surveyor; Thos. H. Giles, superintendent of common schools.

The court then divided the county into precincts as follows:

All that portion of country on the east side of Provo River hereby declared precinct No. 1 and all that portion of Provo valley on the west side of Provo River shall be called precinct No. 2. The court then appointed the following precinct officers: Thos. Aarban, justice of the peace for precinct No. 1; Zemira Palmer, constable. Norton Jacobs, justice of the peace for precinct No. 2; Sidney Epperson, constable.

Court adjourned until the first Monday in March next.

Judges fees	\$3.00
Selectmen	4.50
Clerks	2.50
	<hr/>
	\$9.50

(signed)

J. W. WITT

Judge

THOMAS TODD

Selectman

CHAS. SHELTON

Clerk

When the names of county officials were presented to Brigham Young, acting governor of the territory, the name of John Hamilton was substituted for that of Snelling M. Johnson as sheriff, so Mr. Hamilton was actually the first sheriff of the county. The position of selectman was comparable to that of county commissioner today.

John W. Witt's term as probate judge continued until 1888, during which time many important events transpired in the county.

According to John Crook's journal the population in the valley at the time of county organization was over 1,000 persons. The largest

"Every indication is that future generations will have as much reason to be thankful for the vision that preserved that magnificent area for the public as the present generation has for those who preserved Yellowstone and Grand Canyon and Bryce and Zion and the rest.

"Perhaps this park will be even more valuable. It is on the very edge of a metropolitan complex that will include a million people within another half-century. It offers the brightest hope that those million people will have a place to escape quickly and often from daily pressures, to seek solitude and the spiritual regeneration that can come from nature.

"The western slope of the Wasatch, with its beautiful canyons, will always be limited in its recreation potential because of the problem of keeping the valley's drinking water pure. The park nearing reality on the eastern slope will have no such limitation. It can be developed with recreation almost the sole consideration.

"What the Park Commissioners have on their planning boards is a 24,000-acre tract of mountain and meadow land stretching from the shores of Deer Creek Reservoir north beyond Guardsman Pass. It is, essentially, the land on the opposite side of the mountain from American Fork and Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons.

"The area is unbelievably beautiful. It offers the possibility of countless excellent campsites and picnic grounds connected by roads winding peacefully through inspiring country. It offers slopes for skiing development, that connected by lifts with the Alta-Brighton complex, can surpass anything else in America. Plans are developing for a major resort hotel with golf course and winter and summer sports, with part of the income going to the state.

"Present tax income from lands included in the proposed park run \$4,020 a year. Grazing permits alone would produce at least \$21,311 a year, before development even begins.

"Thanks to some hard work by the Park Commission itself under its able chairman, Harold Fabian, and to a dedicated group of Heber Valley leaders under H. Clay Cummings, options have been obtained on practically all the land needed. The Commission is ready now to spend \$350,000 for the key piece of property, a 494-acre tract, and will ask nearly \$1 million from the Legislature for the rest.

"This is an investment in the future—and in the present, too, for that matter—that Utah simply cannot afford to pass up. Utahns owe their gratitude for the hard work and vision that have made possible the fulfillment of this dream, and will expect the Legislature to be sure the opportunity is not lost."

Land purchases and option work continued through 1960 and by December 9, 1960, the commission reported that it had purchased 516 acres in the nucleus area and in addition had placed options on 20,326 more acres at \$30 per acre or slightly more for some plots of irrigated farm land.

At a December meeting of the commission Mr. Fabian called progress on the park and the land options "A remarkable story."

"All of these people have been very cooperative and helpful and we have treated everyone equally and fairly on the whole program," he said.

The year 1961 saw the bi-annual session of the Utah Legislature and enactment of Senate Bill 242 appropriating approximately \$1.5 million dollars for acquisition costs of park land. Governor Clyde signed the bill at appropriate ceremonies on Friday, March 10, 1961, at the State Capitol Building.

In his first official statement after signing of the legislation, Mr. Fabian praised the cooperation and team-work involved in the project.

"This has been a tremendous team effort from the state," Mr. Fabian said. "The residents of Heber Valley and Midway who cooperated in giving options, the Legislature, Governor Clyde for signing the law, the commissioners—everyone deserved high praise and credit for the job. I think I am more thrilled about the remarkable job of community effort and cooperation—the team effort of everyone—than anything else," he said.

Mr. Fabian also explained that the first steps toward the new park would be to map out plans for development.

"We want to start on the development just as soon as we can plan what we are going to do. This will have to be a long-range program, with integrated planning with the National Forest Service, whose land borders part of ours. We just can't jump into a full-blown park. We will pick up the options on the land as money becomes available, but we are going to start on planning right away," Mr. Fabian said.

The law, as passed by the legislature, allowed the park commission to acquire, on a time payment basis at three per cent interest, the necessary acreage of mountain land over a 10-year period.

Mr. Cummings, who worked with the park commission and residents of the area in securing the options was called in 1960 to a special mission for the LDS Church in Hawaii, and then subsequently as president of the Church's New Zealand Mission. He was succeeded in the park commission work by Nephi Probst.

So elated at the new park development and the action of the legislature and governor were the residents of Wasatch County that they held a victory celebration on Tuesday, April 4, 1961. "Heber Valley—U.S.A." was the theme of the testimonial banquet conducted in the Midway Town Hall and attended by more than 300 county residents and state officials.

Speakers included Harold Smith, president of the Wasatch Chamber of Commerce, Governor Clyde, President Moyle, Mr. Fabian and Richard Van Winkle, chairman of the State Road Commission. Glen Hatch, Heber attorney and former state senator, was master of ceremonies.

Each of the speakers commended the residents of the valley for their fine spirit of cooperation in making the park possible.

"The history of Utah is a history of cooperation and there has never been a greater story than this one here," Governor Clyde remarked.

President Moyle encouraged everyone to show continued "statesmanship" in bringing the reality of the park to fulfillment.

"I believe we could follow no wiser course than to permit the state to outline the course to follow because the State Park Commission are sufficiently removed to paint a much more impartial, more fair and wiser picture of the park development and bring it to successful use. This is not alone a Heber Valley park, nor just a state park, it is a national project and those who have contributed are to be highly praised," President Moyle said.

In the meantime, the Wasatch County Commission took steps to zone a half-mile buffer area around the park to prohibit commercial developments and land speculation in the areas nearest the park site. The zoning prohibited all but farms and single dwellings within one-half mile of the park.

The cooperation of Wasatch residents in bringing about the park won recognition throughout the state, but to those in the county it was another pioneering step and another record of accomplishment and achievement by its governing board, the Wasatch County Commission.

County government, as noted in the previous chapter, began in 1862 with the formation of the county court and appointment of selectmen as officers of the court. The board of selectmen served in the county until 1896 when statehood was granted Utah, and the commission form of county government was adopted.

Many changes have occurred in a century of life in the valley, with government influence growing from Church-centered control to an active board of commissioners. Yet, in spite of a more complex organization, the fundamental principles of county government have remained constant. The early minute books of the old selectmen and the latest records of the county commission all reflect a desire on the part of elected officials to set aside partisanship and selfishness and give citizens throughout the valley effective and efficient leadership.

As noted in the previous chapter, the first county organization was established on January 17, 1862, by act of the Territorial Legislature. The various offices of county government designated at that time were as follows:

Probate Judge, elected by the legislature; three county selectmen, elected by voters of the county, with the judge and the selectmen to constitute the county court. There was also a clerk appointed by the court, a treasurer elected by voters for a four-year term; a notary public, elected by the Legislature; a county surveyor, elected by the county; three election judges, appointed by the court; three school board trustees,

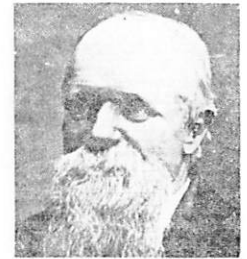
First Officials of Wasatch County



John W. Witt
Judge



Thomas Todd
Selectman



James Duke
Selectman



John H. Van Wagoner
Selectman



John Harvey
Assessor and Collector



John M. Murdock
Treasurer



Thomas H. Giles
Superintendent of common
schools



John Hamilton
Sheriff

Snelling M. Johnson
Sheriff
(No picture available)

John Sessions
Surveyor
(No picture available)

elected by the voters; a county school superintendent, appointed by the court; an assessor and collector, appointed by the court; a recorder, elected by voters; a surveyor, appointed by the court; a prosecuting attorney, elected by the Legislature; a sheriff, elected by the people; a Justice of Peace and coroner, and two constables for each precinct, elected; an estray pound keeper for each precinct, elected; two fence viewers in each precinct, elected; a road commissioner, appointed by the court and precinct road supervisors to be elected in each precinct.

The Legislature elected John W. Witt as probate judge in the county and on February 22, 1862, Judge Witt organized the county organization as follows: Selectmen, Thomas Todd, James Duke and John H. Van Wagoner; assessor and collector, John Harvey; Sheriff, Snelling M. Johnson; treasurer, John M. Murdoch; surveyor, John Sessions and Thomas H. Giles, superintendent of common schools.

The court divided the county into two precincts. All the area east of the Provo River was placed in Precinct No. 1 and Thomas Rasband was appointed Justice of the Peace with Zemira Palmer as constable. Precinct No. 2 was all the area west of the Provo River, and Norton Jacobs was named Justice of the Peace. Sidney Epperson was constable. Clerk of the court was Charles Shelton.

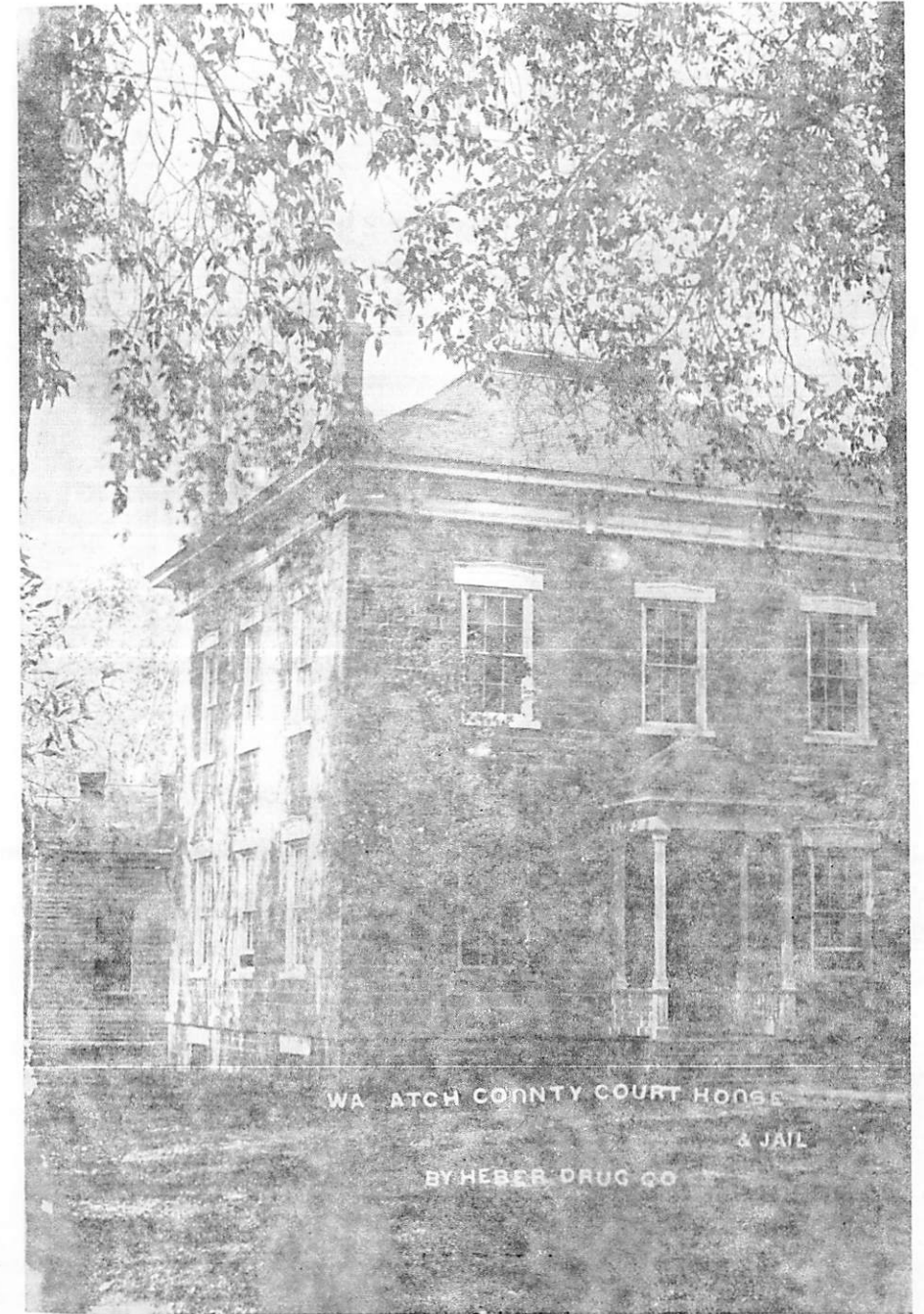
Until the time of statehood the county court headed by the Probate Judge constituted the chief legal power of the county. By act of Congress the Probate Judge was also a key figure in land titles, having power to enter claims in the U.S. Land Office and receive titles in return for those inhabiting the lands. Many land titles today are still traced back to a deed from the old probate judges.

With the passage of time the probate judge and the county court were weakened as state and federal governmental bodies began to centralize their controls. In 1864 the Federal Government restricted the legal power of the Probate Court to the settlement of estates, guardianships and divorce matters.

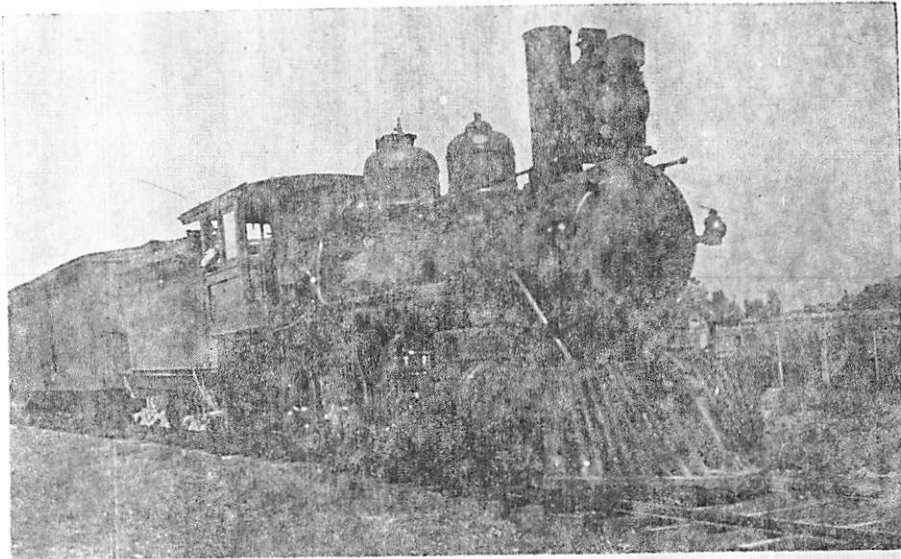
Additional responsibilities for the Probate or County Court came in 1872 when the selectmen were appointed by the Legislature to erect a county jail and act as directors of the establishment, and in 1878 when the court was appointed as a Board of Equalization to adjust tax assessments and appoint election judges for each precinct.

In 1880, however, provisions of the Edmunds-Tucker Act made the office of Probate Judge an appointment of the President of the United States and transferred all divorce actions from the probate to district court. Election laws were also changed, taking power away from the probate court. The office of county clerk was made an elective position in 1888 and in that same year the precinct and county road offices were consolidated into the office of District Road Supervisor.

The most drastic changes in county government came in 1896 when



The Wasatch County Court House constructed between 1878 and 1882. In the background is the County Jail.



The first train to arrive in Charleston from Provo on September 6, 1899 at 2 p.m.

to Wasatch County. Nearly all the residents of Charleston were on hand at the depot to welcome the new iron horse. For many years afterward the people in Charleston enjoyed the convenience of two trains a day between Heber and Provo.

The advent of Deer Creek Reservoir and faster means of transportation began to spell the decline of Charleston in the late 1930's. Farm lands were covered with water and many residents moved away. Some who had to leave with their families and give up farms and homes in the wake of the new reservoir were John W. Allen, Thomas Allen, H. F. Watson, John L. Atwood, Heber J. Simmons, William Daybell, George B. Wright, William Boren, George Edward, Perry D. North, Roe Carlile and A. F. Latta.

With many of the residents moving away, the last remaining business in the town, the North Mercantile Co., was forced to close its doors. The Post Office was also discontinued, and patrons placed on rural route service from Heber. This necessitated the retirement of Postmaster Loraine S. Wright, who had served for 28 years. About 1958 the Post Office building was purchased by the Sons of the Pioneers and was moved to Pioneer Village in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Those who have served as Postmasters in Charleston are: Nymphus C. Murdock, Sarah A. Wagstaff, Nellie North, Nellie Webster, Ruby Madsen and Loraine S. Wright.

With all the changes that have occurred in Charleston, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints continues as the mainstay in the lives of those who remain.